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ABSTRACT

This book, written for individuals contemplating a career in law, presents insights about the legal profession from 28 of the nation's top lawyers, judges, and legal scholars. Updated to address the critical issues facing the legal profession in the aftermath of the 1980's, the revised edition reflects the changing marketplace for lawyers and uncovers the new realities that every law student should be prepared for. These realities include the following: (1) the growing bottom-line orientation of law firms, leading to layoffs, mergers, and reorganizations; (2) recession-prompted changes in hiring practices, creating the new "temp" lawyer; (3) diminished opportunities on the traditional partnership track; and (4) the emerging concerns about quality of life related to heavier workloads, "rainmaker" expectations, and increased competition. The book discusses law school survival, the bar exam, clerkships, and the actual work a lawyer does, as well as career dissatisfaction, pro bono work, and personality and long-term satisfaction. An added section contains information on the sole practitioner, teaching law, women and minorities in the profession, and professional responsibilities. (GLR)

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